

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft ~~extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a~~ having a generally horizontal axis, the drum ~~having an~~ including a drum opening formed in a ~~circumference~~ circumferential side portion thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, ~~the housing having~~

a top cover to cover a top face of the housing;

an inlet opening provided in a top face ~~thereof~~ of the top cover and permitting access to the drum opening ~~of the drum~~ for the loading and unloading of the laundry; and

a slide lid including a left side and a right side which ~~[[is]]~~ are slidable in an anterior-posterior direction along respective left and right sides of the inlet opening for covering and uncovering the inlet opening;

wherein the slide lid is bendable in the sliding direction along the inlet opening, and comprises a main body, formed by coupling a plurality of bar members in parallel to each other, and a flexible sheet member which covers over a top face of the main body and is bendable in accordance with the bending of the slide lid,

wherein a portion of a top face of the top cover rearward of a rear end edge of the inlet opening includes a curved face, for receiving a lower surface of the slide lid which slides rearward from an inlet opening side and for guiding the lower surface in a vertical direction into a rear side in the housing, and

wherein a front surface of the slide lid, that is curved downward by the curved face, is guided by a guide portion which includes a resilient member adjacent to the sheet member on a front face thereof.

AMENDMENT

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2. (currently amended): [[A]] The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the top face of the housing includes an oblique face inclined forwardly
downward,
wherein the inlet opening extends from a front portion of the oblique face to a rear portion
of the top face,
wherein the slide lid is slid rearward from a front edge of the inlet opening to uncover the
inlet opening, and is slid forward to the front edge of the inlet opening to cover the inlet opening.
3. (currently amended): [[A]] The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the
top face of the housing further includes an upper face that ~~another oblique face inclined~~
~~rearwardly downward, and~~ convexly projects upward so as to have [[the]] a greatest height at an
intermediate position along an anterior-posterior direction, with a rear face portion inclined
rearwardly downward. ~~anteroposteriorly predetermined position.~~
4. (currently amended): [[A]] The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 3, wherein the
~~predetermined intermediate position is a rearward position.~~ position, ~~wherein the oblique faces~~
~~each have a convexly curved surface.~~
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended): [[A]] The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim [[5]] 1, further
comprising:
a guide member engaged with a side edge of the slide lid for guiding the slide lid in a lid
sliding direction; and

a restriction member for restricting displacement of the slide lid in a direction intersecting the lid sliding direction so as to prevent the side edge of the slide lid from disengaging from the guide member.

7-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, wherein the sheet member is attached to the main body of the slide lid with a predetermined amount of slack provided in the lid sliding direction.

13. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the resilient member further comprising comprises a foreign matter intrusion preventing member provided in a gap defined between an upper surface of the slide lid and the housing for preventing a foreign matter from intruding into the rear portion of the housing along the upper surface of the slide lid.

14. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, further comprising an electric opening/closing mechanism for electrically opening and closing the slide lid.

15. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a start button for starting an operation of the drum-type laundry machine,

wherein the electric opening/closing mechanism closes the slide lid in response to pressing of the start button.

16. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

an open/close lid provided in the housing to be opened and closed when the laundry is taken into or out of the drum; and

an open/close sensor for detecting whether the open/close lid is closed;

wherein the electric opening/closing mechanism permits the slide lid to be closed when the open/close sensor detects that the open/close lid is closed.

17. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a water supply valve which is opened for introducing tap water into the laundry machine; and

a bath water pump which is driven for introducing bath water into the laundry machine;

wherein the water supply valve is disposed on one side of a ~~slide lid-slidable~~ region where the slide lid is slidable ~~in the lid-sliding direction~~, and the bath water pump is disposed on the other side of the ~~slide lid-slidable~~ region.

18. (currently amended): A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft ~~extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a~~ having a generally horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry;

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening;

biasing means for biasing the open/close lid in a lid opening direction; and

holding means for holding the open/close lid in a closed state for preventing the open/close lid from being opened.

19. (currently amended): A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft ~~extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a~~ having a generally horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry;

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening; and

biasing means for biasing the open/close lid, the biasing means being adapted to apply no biasing force to the open/close lid in a lid opening direction when the open/close lid is in a closed state and to apply a biasing force to the open/close lid in the lid opening direction when the open/close lid is opened to a predetermined position.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rotation shaft extends at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis.

25. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet member covers substantially an entire top face of the main body of the slide lid.

26. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the plurality of bar members numbers greater than two.

27. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein ends of the bar members are slidably received in receiving portions of the right and left side edges of the inlet opening and held therein by guide members opposed to and spaced from the receiving portions by a distance generally equal to a thickness of the slide lid, whereby an upper surface of the slide lid is prevented from rising from the inlet opening.

28. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 18, wherein the rotation shaft extends at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis.

29. (new): The drum-type washing machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the rotation shaft extends at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis.